In this issue...

Chaverim B'Shirim concert May 22 page 3

JFS Kids Fair more than just fun page 4

HDS students talk about God page 14

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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

May 2016 Nissan/Iyar 5776 Volume XXXIX Number 8 FREE

Beth Israel Congregation celebrates centennial anniversary

Judy Musket, special to the WJN

This year Beth Israel Congregation is celebrating its centennial anniversary. Members have been involved in creating a series of engaging, spirited, meaningful and just plain fun events to mark the completion of its first century and to begin looking forward into its next.

In February and March 2016 a Beth Israel Museum was opened at the synagogue; some of its exhibits, which portrayed Beth Israel's century of growth, then traveled to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. For many of its early years, Beth Israel was the only formal Jewish congregation in the city of Ann Arbor. People enthusiastically and nostalgically pored over old photos of younger selves and friends, as well as surveyed artifacts from the past. A beautiful jeweled and beaded historic Torah cover and silver Torah pointer used by the congregation in its beginning years was on prominent display.

A recent written history of the congregation available at the museum told of the poignant beginning of the congregation.

"Life cycles and religious services were routinely held in the homes of local Jewish families. This small Jewish community would travel to Detroit for High Holiday services.

All this changed in 1916. Rabbi Slomon and his son were traveling in the U.S. from their home in Jerusalem, to raise funds for Palestine. While en route from Chicago to Detroit, they were involved in a terrible accident, which resulted in the death of Rabbi Slomon's son.

Rabbi Slomon was hospitalized in Ann Arbor. Not speaking any English, he could not communicate with his doctors or nurses. Osias Zwerdling was already an active member of Ann Arbor's Jewish community. He was asked by the hospital to visit Rabbi Slomon, translate for him, as well as provide kosher food. Yom Kippur was quickly approaching. When Rabbi Slomon's doctors would not give him permission to travel to Detroit, Osias and Hannah Zwerdling opened up their home. Subsequently, services were held in the home of Osias Zwerdling, William Lansky and other members of the Ann Arbor Jewish Community. Following the Yom Kippur fast, these same members met to discuss the formal establishment of a Jewish congregation in Ann Arbor. In 1918, "Beth Israel Congregation" was formally adopted as its name." (Beth Israel: Our First 100 Years)

Beth Israel congregants, led by Rabbi Allan Kensky, carried the Torah from Hillel to its new home on Washtenaw Avenue

Osias Zwerdling was to continue as president of Beth Israel from 1918–1958. Some current members of BIC can recollect moving to Ann Arbor and being warmly encouraged by Zwerdling to join Beth Israel. In the Oral History Project about Jewish Ann Arbor, which were recorded by Story Corps (http://annarborjewishstories.org), some elders of the synagogue expressed gratitude for having been made at ease and welcomed by Zwerdling into the congregational life of this small Midwestern university town, a town that had yet to have a strong Jewish presence.

One of Beth Israel's missions is to be a congregation that affirms the inclusion of everyone in Jewish life, to provide a supportive welcoming Jewish community for all.

There are many examples of Beth Israel's dedication to its philosophy and policy of inclusion. In the late 1970s and 80s, Beth Israel created the Soviet Jewry Absorption Committee. A committee of Beth Israel members worked tirelessly to receive and make welcome Jews

continued on page 2

Community welcome to attend Jewish Communal Leadership Program graduation

Paige Walker, special to the WJN

On Sunday, May 1, at 10 a.m., the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP), based at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, will host its fifth graduation ceremony. JCLP warmly invites members of the Ann Arbor community to join in honoring the accomplishments of six newly minted Jewish communal professionals and sending them off with the good wishes of this community.

Irene Butter, community activist and scholar, will deliver keynote remarks for the program. Butter, a survivor of Westerbork and Bergen Belsen, earned her Ph.D. in economics at Duke and was on the U-M School of Public Health faculty for more than 35 years. The graduating students first connected with Dr. Butter when she visited the JCLP seminar. They were so moved by the insight, grace, and commitment she brings to her current work of sharing her Holocaust experience and the lesson of "never a bystander" with school and other groups, that they invited her to speak at their graduation. In addition, Butter and other members of Zeitouna, the local Arab/Jewish women's dialogue group that Butter helped co-found 14 years ago, presented a session, organized by JCLP students, at the recent Limmud Michigan held at the Michigan Union.

JCLP keynote speaker Irene Butter

As the students count down their last days in Ann Arbor, two members of JCLP's Class of 2016 shared what they've gained from their time spent in the community. Alli Rosen, who will be returning to San Francisco, reflected that, "I've appreciated the many opportunities to meet and learn with so many interesting people from the Ann Arbor Jewish community." Kate Malekoff, who heads to New York City to begin work as Volunteer Coordinator for Harlem RBI (a youth development program in East Harlem), also expressed her gratitude for the community here. "The Washtenaw County Jewish community reminded me that Jews really are a tribe," said Malekoff. "And I hope to extend the sense of community and welcome that Ann Arbor gave to me to newcomers to my future homes."

The 2016 graduation ceremony will be held at the Educational Conference Center (Room 1840) in U-M's School of Social Work Building, 1080 South University Ave. A brunch reception will accompany the ceremony. Call (734) 764-5392 or email Paige Walker at vpwalker@umich.edu with any questions. ■

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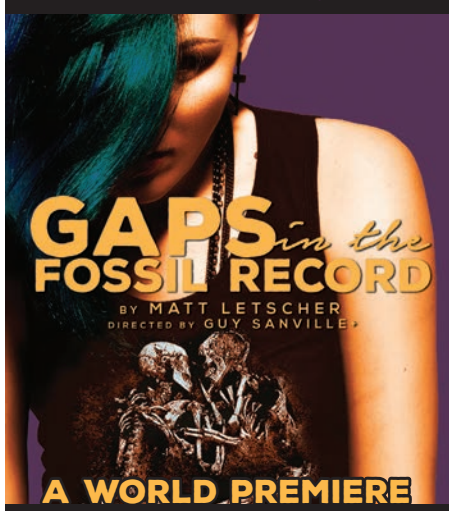

April 14 - May 28 2016

When Jane brings home the much older, soon-to-be father of her unborn child, Mom thinks that she's kidding. What starts as a practical joke turns into a thoughtful exploration of what it is that we pass down through the generations. Is it more than just DNA?

**Contains adult language.*

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Community

BIC Centennial, continued from page 1

Beth Israel Founders

emigrating from the USSR to the United States. (This committee eventually morphed into the current Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County). Beth Israel was the first Conservative synagogue to elect a female as president of the congregation: Gerda Seligman served from 1971–1973. Furthermore, Beth Israel was one of the first Conservative congregations to welcome women on the bima as full participants in Shabbat services. Today Beth Israel stands out as a congregation that for many years fully welcomes LGBT individuals and families into congregational life.

On Saturday, April 2, the congregation celebrated its Centennial Shabbat. During this service various categories of members were called to the Torah, including families who had been members over 25 years, and couples who had been married at the congregation. "At some points there we so many people called up to the bima, you couldn't believe everybody would fit", said Cindy Saper, the director of education at Beth Israel. That Shabbat coincided with the biennial Rosenberg Scholar–in-Residence lecture series.

In speaking of the challenges of the next century, Robert Robert Dobrusin, Beth Israel's rabbi for nearly the past 30 years, talked about how the synagogue will continue to be inclusive and make people — such as interfaith couples and other seekers who are looking for a Jewish way — feel welcome and comfortable at Beth Israel. He talked about a major project the congregation completed recently to make the bima accessible to all and a new reader's table that can be lowered to accommodate a person in a wheelchair. "We want to make sure there are no barriers to inclusion." Rabbi Dobrusin continued by saying that Beth Israel wants to encourage new affiliation in the coming years from people who might feel they "aren't educated enough, or feel they don't know how to act in a synagogue." He encourages them to come to the synagogue anyways. Beth Israel is committed to increasing the comfort level for those who want to know Judaism at any level. The synagogue offers adult learning courses and opportunities to join in wherever and however one feels comfortable. As the rabbi said, "We are all learning all the time." He observed that people become progressively more confident over time as they allow themselves the time and space to incorporate Jewish learning into their lives. A major mission of Beth Israel Congregation in the next 100 years is to provide that.

Beth Israel is totally committed to being a place where people can meaningfully pray and study and seek spirituality. But, it seeks to be more than that. "Some things are very serious but you also have to have a fun side. To be a Jew requires learning, but we also like to have fun. It's part of being a community," said Rabbi Dobrusin. Thus, the celebrations continue.

On May 15 and June 5, there will be two more significant events — envisioned as "Fun Raisers" — a time to merrily celebrate the congregation's illustrious past and optimistic future with friends and family.

On Sunday, May 15, at 11 a.m. (after the 8th grade religious school graduation), a birthday party for the whole congregation will be held. The party will include a colossal birthday cake, lunch, and games for celebrants of all ages, including vintage pinball machines, and arcade games. There is no charge for this event and everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

On June 5, Beth Israel will host the congregation and the rest of the Ann Arbor Jewish community at a gala event at the Sheraton in Ann Arbor, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be a catered kosher dinner, and joyous music and dancing facilitated by Neil Alexander and his band. The cost of the dinner is $118. RSVP for the gala by May 16, by calling (734) 665-9897.

Looking to its own future, Beth Israel has invited Rabbi Sharon Brous from IKAR in Los Angeles to speak to the congregation on December 5, 2016. Other events are also being planned for the fall and winter.

For more information about all the events, call 665-9897 or email office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Beth Israel World Wide Wrap, 2016

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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In this issue…

Advertisers 23
Best Reads 17
Calendar 19
Congregations 8
Jewish Family Services 4
Kosher Cuisine 18
Rabbis' Corner 10
Women 7
Youth 12
Vitals 23

Chaverim B'Shirim Spring Cabaret

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

Music from the wizard who wrote 'The Wizard of Oz'" will be presented by Chaverim B'Shirim for their annual spring performance on Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. Chaverim B'Shirim is the volunteer community choir directed by Marilyn Krimm, doctor of Musical Arts, hosted by the JCC. The concert will feature the music of Jewish composer Harold Arlen, considered one of the most prolific composers of the 20th Century, regularly composing hit songs, including "Over the Rainbow," named the number one song on the "Songs of the Century" list by the Recording Industry Association of America and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as named the greatest movie song of all time on the American Film Institute's list "AFI's 100 Years…100 Songs," on which Arlen also has four other songs. The choir will present music covering the broad range of Arlen's career, including songs written for the famous Cotton Club in New York City in the 1930s, as well as songs from his long career composing for Hollywood in the heyday of movie musicals through the 1960s. Different from past years, the performance will be presented in cabaret style, allowing performer and audience to be closer, focused around a piano with more featured solo performances. Krimm explains that, "the cabaret format will better showcase Arlen's music," whose songs are classified as rhythm numbers, jazz pieces, ballads, and torch songs.

Harold Arlen

Chaverim B'Shirim has been performing for the greater Ann Arbor community for 23 years, having first started out at Beth Israel Congregation in 1993 and subsequently moving to the JCC in 1995. Krimm has been active in the Ann Arbor Jewish community for many years, including serving as president of Hadassah in the early 1980s, and working eight years as cantorial soloist and music director for Temple Beth Emeth and its choir from 1984–1992. Krimm and several members of TBE choir who had sung with Krimm continued singing together and within a year formed Chaverim B'Shirim, which means "friends in singing," a volunteer choir that focused on non-liturgical music by Jewish composers. Eventually the choir expanded to include Jewish Broadway composers, particularly those whose fathers were cantors. Harold Arlen is one such composer, whose father was a cantor in Buffalo, New York, where Arlen was born, and then Syracuse, New York.

Initially, the choir managed its costs by charging dues, as well as a small fee to attend their concerts. After many years singing together, members of the choir led by Lily Ladin, Sue Rebner, and Sidney Warschausky, raised $10,000 from the community. This sum was matched by Marilyn and Samuel Krimm, and their son, creating the Marilyn and Samuel Krimm Musical Arts Fund through the JCC. According to Krimm, "The fund continues to support the choir today, and allows the choir to perform without charging membership dues or concert fees, making performances free for the entire community. The fund has continued to grow, despite covering the choir's costs, through continued donations and investment returns." Even the electric piano still in use at the JCC today was purchased with a donation from a friend of the choir.

The upcoming performance is free and open to the public. After the performance, the audience is invited to enjoy refreshments and mingle with Krimm and the choir members, including some former choir members who have moved away from the area but will be returning for this concert. For more information, contact Karen Freedland, director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990. ■

Jewish funeral traditions on film: An evening with Gail Rubin, the doyenne of death

Susan Sefansky, special to the WJN

On May 18, Gail Rubin, certified death educator and self–described Doyenne of Death will present "Jewish Funeral Traditions on Film." Her talk, peppered with funny film clips, will take a humorous look at issues regarding death and dying, the funeral, the treatment of the body, burial, mourning, and annual remembrances. The talk, which will take place at Beth Israel Congregation, will begin at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the University of Michigan Health System Grief Awareness Week Committee, Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, and Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.

Gail Rubin

There will also be time to discuss funeral planning. "While modern medicine's life-saving strides are impressive, humans still have a 100 percent mortality rate. Yet only 30 percent of adults make end-of-life plans: wills, advanced medical directives and preneed funeral planning. That leaves 70 percent of the population unprepared and devastated, not if, but when, there's a death in the family," says Rubin. Her talks are known for opening the door to family discussions about death.

Rubin is the author of the award-winning book *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning for Those Who Don't Plan to Die*. A popular speaker who uses humor and films to get end-of-life planning conversations started, she also hosts the award-winning *A Good Goodbye* TV interview series and Internet radio program. Rubin is a Certified Thanatologist, a designation granted by the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She's also a member of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association. A Certified Celebrant, Rubin is president of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue of New Mexico, serves on the cemetery committee for Congregation Albert, and volunteers with the Chevra Kaddisha, which ritually prepares bodies for Jewish burial.

The talk is free of charge, but reservations are appreciated. RSVP to programs@jfsannarbor.org. For more information, contact Susan Sefansky at sefansky@umich.edu. ■

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Fun and service–learning was focus of JFS Kids Care Fair

Sarah Schneider Hong, special to the WJN

Over 250 people attended the second annual Jewish Family Services Kids Care Fair that was held on March 6, 2016, at the Ann Arbor City Club. Families spent the afternoon participating in hands-on service-learning activities covering topics ranging from disability awareness and environmental stewardship to emergency preparedness and welcoming refugees.

A wonderful variety of local groups and organizations (Jewish and other) dedicated their time and efforts to hosting activity stations at the fair. Activity partners included: Alpha House, American Red Cross, Ann Arbor Police Department, Ann Arbor Symphony, Beth Israel Madrichim, Bird Center of Washtenaw County, Elameno-Peace, First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor Youth Group, Greenhills School Service Ninjas, Greenhills School Sustainability Action Projects, Gym America, Hebrew Day School, JCC Camp Raanana, Jewish Cultural Society, Jewish Federation Family Salon, Peachy Fitness and Temple Beth Emeth. A performance by A2 Magic capped off the afternoon. One JFS Board member who attended commented on "the diverse crowd enjoying an impressive range of community programs, resources, and activities for children of all ages." Indeed, JFS's goal to expand upon last year's success to include more Jewish and secular local organizations and to extend the program's reach to all was met this year.

Local corporate sponsors such as Goldfish Swim School of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor City Club, IHA Child Health-Ann Arbor and the zoey + joey Hair Studio + Boutique showed their support via generous donations. A significant grant awarded to JFS by the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Youth Council helped make the event possible and also served as a statement of great community support for this one-of-a-kind annual event. As the only Jewish social services agency in Washtenaw County, JFS is pleased to be uniquely poised to leverage the support and participation of the Jewish community and the local non-profit community, to come together in support of service-learning. Thanks to the participation of all the attendees, the Kids Care Fair truly was more than "just fun" and was an enriching afternoon where seeds of service and volunteerism were planted and sowed in the very youngest of community members. Proceeds from the event benefitted the JFS Food Pantry and Counseling Services to support local families in need. The 3rd Annual JFS Kids Care Fair will be held in March 2017, with details to follow soon on the JFS website. Representatives from local community organizations and/or businesses eager to participate in the 2017 event can contact Sarah at sarah.hong@jfsannarbor.org. ■

JFS Care Fair, 2015

JFS promotes caregiver mental health

Lilly Estenson, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is deeply committed to supporting those with mental health conditions and offers a variety of services and assistance that help promote and maintain mental health and wellness. May is Mental Health Month, and so is an especially fitting time to raise awareness about this important issue that affects so many in the community. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) estimates that one in five Americans will be impacted by a mental health condition during their lifetime.

JFS wants to bring special focus to the unique mental health challenges faced by family caregivers. There are over 65 million Americans providing much-needed care for elderly loved ones and loved ones with chronic illness, disability, or disease. The emotional nature and time commitment involved with caregiving responsibilities can make family caregivers more likely to experience chronic stress and leave them at an increased risk for depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. Considering this, JFS is passionate about providing support and resources to caregivers. JFS social workers and care managers work closely with caregivers both locally and long-distance to ensure their loved ones receive proper services. JFS programs provide the educational and emotional support necessary to give caregivers peace of mind no matter where they live.

Caregiver Conversations, a free support and education group, meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30–8 p.m. at JFS. Facilitated by an experienced social worker, Caregiver Conversations provides the space for caregivers to share experiences, receive peer consultation and support, and continue learning. This group is open to all and those interested in participating should contact Leah Zaas at (734) 769-0209 or at programs@jfsannarbor.org

Partners in Care Concierge (PiCC) offers medical appointment accompaniment to older adults and is another vital resource for caregivers. PiCC provides eligible older adults and individuals with disabilities transportation and a volunteer Partner to accompany them to and from medical appointments. Partners offer comfort and confidence, and use consistent reporting methods to keep caregivers and loved ones informed of what transpired at appointments. PiCC provides critical support to full-time employed caregivers or out of state family members who aren't able to be at their loved one's side for all appointments. To learn more, visit www.jfspartnersincare.org or call (734) 769-0209 and ask for the PiCC program coordinator to set up an appointment.

JFS' Thrive counseling program, founded as a positive approach to mental, emotional and behavioral health care, is available to adults, adolescents (aged 12-18), couples and families. Thrive provides clients with confidential, personal care tailored to individual needs at its Ann Arbor office. In some cases, therapists are able to provide in-home counseling. Thrive therapists are dedicated to helping clients maintain a healthy and balanced life, and can be another wonderful resource for caregivers. More information, including a list of insurance plans currently accepted, can be found at www.thrivecounselinga2.com or by calling Thrive's main line at (734) 436-4249.

JFS recognizes the unique mental health challenges that can come with becoming a caregiver for a loved one. Through the above programs and service offerings, the agency is doing its part to provide support for those supporting others in the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish community. ■

JFS receives Impact Fund Award

Sarah Schneider Hong and Sarah Okin, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services's Community Mental Health Education Project has been chosen as an awardee by the Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Impact Fund. In this Fund, community members who are donors to the Federation's annual campaign decide which organizations receive up to $10,000 in award. The organizations' proposals are submitted to the Federation for approval, and then presented to community members for voting.

JFS' Community Mental Health Education Project is designed to raise awareness, combat stigma associated with mental illness and reduce social isolation across generations in the Jewish community. As a longtime provider of high quality mental health services and support, JFS is uniquely poised to raise awareness regarding mental health and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. JFS aims to achieve this goal through a series of three events (two of which will take place in fall of 2016 and one in winter of 2017).

The first component of the program, (scheduled to take place on September 11, 2016), will be a one-day, mental health awareness event designed to promote an understanding of, and reduce the stigma associated with, mental illness across generations of the Jewish population. This innovative one day, three-track series of simultaneous presentations on mental health issues that affect children and teens, adults, and older adults, respectively, is designed to meet an unmet need by further breaking down stigma and encouraging addressing mental health issues proactively. The program, titled, "Mental Health Across the Lifespan," will feature several prominent expert speakers from the community.

The second program component, a professional half-day training session offered to staff of local Jewish agencies and synagogues, will be designed to assist area Jewish non-profit employers to recognize and understand mental illness, to promote healthy and well-supported workplaces and to enable local agencies to recognize mental health issues in their staff and clients. JFS's staff of licensed clinicians have considerable experience providing trainings such as these and looks forward to sharing this information with the staff of local Jewish organizations.

Licensed social workers attending the above two events will have the opportunity to earn continuing education units (CEUs); licensed social workers are required to earn a certain number of CEUs every three years to maintain their Michigan State license to practice.

The third and final program component will be a one-day health care enrollment session. In this session, JFS staff will assist community members seeking health care. Older adults often experience stress and confusion while attempting to enroll for appropriate health care coverage. JFS staff members are trained and experienced in assisting with applications for Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Programs, and this session will assist community members with navigating these systems and completing the enrollment process.

JFS is passionate about providing quality behavioral health services to the community, via programs such as the above and also ongoing counseling services for individuals and families. JFS recently branded their therapy services "Thrive Counseling". In Thrive, which serves everyone in the community, JFS therapists are able to accept nearly all insurance and Employee Assistance plans serving Washtenaw County residents. JFS/Thrive has the expertise, experience and capacity necessary to host the important events above and is excited for the opportunities this Impact Grant award affords the community. ■

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For submission information visit:
www.templebethemeth.org.

CELEBRATE RABBI LEVY
06 24

Friday, June 24

Join us for a Shabbat experience celebrating Rabbi Levy's leadership at TBE.

5-7 pm | BBQ hosted by Brotherhood
A fun and casual backyard style cook-out.

5:45 pm | Tot Shabbat
Rabbi Levy will share some of his all-time favorite tales for kids and adults alike.

7 pm | Shabbat Service
An engaging and unique final service led by Jewish clergy who were inspired by Rabbi Levy's mentorship.

RSVP by Friday, June 3
Visit templebethemeth.org to RSVP to all evening events.

Haggadah exhibit explores many versions of the four sons

Yaffa Klugerman, special to the WJN

He often smokes, typically wields a weapon, and sometimes resembles a Mafioso. He wears a baseball cap, a business suit, or a suit of armor. He is usually clean-shaven, and in at least one case, he has a Mohawk.

Who is he? He is the *rasha*—the wicked son who appears in the Passover haggadah.

He and his counterparts—the wise son, the simple son, and the son who doesn't know how to ask a question—can now be viewed in their many versions at a unique exhibit at the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. The exhibit, featuring 29 haggadahs from the Irwin M. Alterman Haggadah Collection, is located in the Frankel Center conference room at 202 South Thayer Street and will be on display through July. It includes haggadahs of various shapes and sizes, ancient and modern, and in a number of different languages.

The Alterman collection was acquired by the U-M Library last year with the help of the Frankel Center, and is housed in the Special Collections Library of the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. It includes more than 1,800 haggadahs and is believed to be one of the largest haggadah collections in the world. The unique compilation belonged to the late Irwin Alterman of West Bloomfield, and was donated by his widow, Marilyn McCall Alterman.

"The contrasts among the depictions of the four sons are amazing to see, as well as how often the same basic iconic types appear," noted Elliot H. Gertel, the U-M Library's Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica. "The wise son is a sage or scholar. The wicked son is a warrior, ruffian, scoffer, or scoundrel. The simple son is a bumpkin, a rustic, or unlearned peasant. And the one who doesn't know how to ask is an infant, innocent babe, or other naïf. It's a way of looking at the Exodus story through the eyes of different types of people and exploring a variety of interpretations."

A close examination of the many haggadahs on display can reveal just how varied those interpretations are. In one haggadah, for example, the wise son is depicted as a Zionist. In another, it's the wicked son who appears alongside the Israeli flag.

"These four sons represent the diversity of learning styles," said Jeffrey Veidlinger, director of the Frankel Center. "The Passover Haggadah commands that different pedagogical methods be used to educate each of the four children. The exhibition demonstrates how tradition has changed over time and across space and celebrates both the heritage of Jewish education and the diversity of Jewish life." ■

Finerman quilts exhibit at the Amster Gallery

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host quilter and fabric artist, Carol Finerman, Thursday, May 26, at 7 p.m., for the opening reception of her exhibition, "Playing with Fabric," on display in the Amster Gallery at the JCC. Finerman's first quilt was created 27 years ago, when she found out that she was going to be a grandmother for the first time. Although she had previously done a lot of sewing, needlepoint, and embroidery, Finerman had never made a quilt. "I bought a book and made a quilt with different shapes, using primary colors, not knowing that there were many neat tools on the market to make the project easy. But I was hooked right away. The fabrics I chose were primary colors, but each had a different pattern. That was what intrigued me and still keeps me fascinated today," explains Finerman.

"Playing with Fabric" will display a variety of projects, including a challah cover, items of clothing, and large "bed sized" quilts. Karen Freedland, director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, curates the gallery. "I'm thrilled that we have the Amster Gallery so that we can share the work of so many wonderful artists. Having a talented fabric artist like Carol, share her work is going to be a real delight"

The Amster Gallery will host "Playing with Fabric" from May 26 through June 30, 2016. The public is invited to attend the reception to meet the artist and browse the exhibition. Many of the works displayed in the Amster Gallery will be for sale. For more information, contact Karen Freedland by calling (734) 971-0990 or email her at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. ■

JFS to host volunteer appreciation events

Sarah Schneider Hong, special to the WJN

Volunteers cherish doing good for others with little expectation of recognition or personal gain. At Jewish Family Services, where many community volunteers give generously of their time and energies, there will be two celebrations in May to honor and recognize their efforts.

First, on May 6, JFS will host its annual "JFS Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast" from 8–9:30 a.m., at Gladwin Barn (4105 West Liberty Street). JFS Volunteers (who serve in a variety of roles, included but not limited to "Friendly Visitors," PiCC medical accompaniers, ESL teachers and more) will enjoy delicious breakfast goods and coffee donated from local sources such as Zingerman's and Barry's Bagels. In addition to breakfast, the event will include a presentation, "Doing Good is Good for You," by Amanda Reel, community impact and volunteer center manager at United Way of Washtenaw County. The event is also a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to meet one another, share their experiences and learn more about the myriad ways to give back. Small prizes of recognition will be gifted to JFS volunteers at the event. JFS volunteers can RSVP for the celebration breakfast via email to volunteer@jfsannarbor.org.

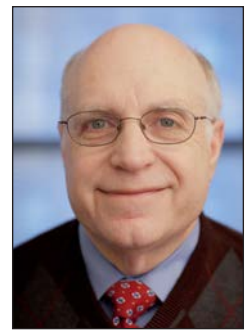
Second, as the academic year draws to a close, so, too, ends the first year of JFS's Mitzvah Mail program. Twenty-six students (elementary and middle school ages) and 20 local older adults participated in this inaugural year of monthly letter-writing, pen-pal exchange facilitated by JFS. The program launched in September and on Thursday, May 19, the Pen-Pals of all ages will meet in person at a celebration of their intergenerational communication and relationship building. The "JFS Mitzvah Mail Pen-Pal Party" will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and JFS will provide transportation to any Pen-Pal adults that request it. One writer in the program, a 95-year-old gentleman who is looking forward to meeting his 5th grader Pen-Pal, described his participation as, "very enriching for me." Thus far, both children and adults have shared that the experience has been a valuable one and a rare opportunity to engage with someone outside their "normal worlds." The forum for not only intergenerational learning but, also to hone the craft of old-fashioned letter writing, appealed to the teaching staff at the Hebrew Day School such that the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders all participated in Mitzvah Mail as part of this school year's HDS curriculum. As a social services agency committed to helping families, those young and old and in between, JFS is especially excited to celebrate the participants in this new program who have spent their time and energy this past year cultivating relationships across generations. ■

Lunch and Learns span wide range of topics

Rachael Hoffenblum, special to WJN

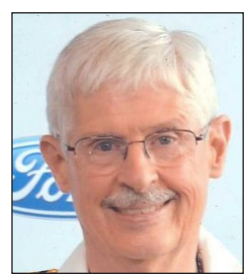
The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will expand its weekly variety of informative, entertaining, and engaging lunch and learn events, which take place every Thursday afternoon. On May 5, Paulette Grotrian will discuss the benefits of mindfulness meditation and lead participants through guided meditation exercises. On May 12, Rabbi Dobrusin of Beth Israel Congregation, will present the lecture, "The lessons I learned about being a rabbi before going to rabbinical school," exploring his early work in different Jewish professional settings. On May 19, Rabbi Aaron Goldstein of Chabad, will speak about, "Reflection on Chabad turning 40." On May 26, Randy Hotton, former director of the Yankee Air Museum and retired Navy captain, will discuss the history of Ypsilanti's Willow Run Bomber Plant and why the Yankee Air Museum is attempting to save the plant. June lunch and learns will welcome Dr. John Seeley of the Citizen's Climate Lobby, Corinne Sikorski, general manager of the Ypsilanti Food Co-op, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.

Paulette Grotrain



Rabbi Dobrusin

Rabbi Goldstein



Randy Hotton

Thursday presentations begin at 1 p.m., and are free and open to the public. Prior to each presentation, an optional light lunch is offered at noon for the nominal fee of $5 or $3 for those ages 65 and over. Advance purchase is not required but reservations are requested to ensure the proper amount of lunch is available. To reserve lunch or learn more about adult program opportunities at the JCC, contact Rachael Hoffenblum, adult program coordinator, at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org, or visit jccannarbor.org to see all that the JCC has to offer. ■

Ann Arbor ORT Spring Dinner

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its annual Spring Dinner on Monday, June 6. The dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., at the Quarter Bistro, 300 South Maple Road. The three-course dinner, offering a choice of three entrees, will cost $40 per person.

The dinner will provide ORT members and potential members the opportunity to dine with friends and to honor the chapter's generous donors. Donors' contributions to ORT America are essential for ORT's programs to serve the needs of 300,000 students annually in over 60 countries.

ORT members Ruth Petit, Linda Sokolove, and Judy Williams at the ORT Spring Dinner, 2015

ORT's innovative courses encourage students to explore many fields, including the increasingly important fields of physics, robotics, nanotechnology, bioengineering and biochemistry. These signature programs produce students who surpass their peers at non-ORT schools worldwide. Due to the demand for ORT programs, ORT continues to grow as it opens the doors of opportunity throughout the world.

Tilly Shames, executive director of University of Michigan Hillel, will be the guest speaker. Her talk, "Behind the Curtain of BDS," will explore the impact of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement on college students, and the many ways in which pro-Israel students are bringing their experiences, leadership and advocacy to campus.

Rides to the dinner will be available to those who need them. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joan Levitt at jflevitt2@gmail.com by May 20.

TBE Sisterhood to offer evening of chamber music to honor Rabbi Levy

Yuni Aaron, special to the WJN

As part of the celebration of Rabbi Robert Levy's successful tenure at Temple Beth Emeth and to mark his retirement this June, TBE Sisterhood is presenting an evening of Chamber Music of Haydn, Turina and Dvorak, featured by distinguished faculties from University of Michigan's school of Music Theater and Dance — Aaron Berofsky, violin; Danielle Belen, violin; Kathryn Votepek, viola: and Richard Aaron, cello. Tzu-yin Huang will be a guest pianist. Richard Aaron is a member of Beth Emeth. Cantor Regina Hayut will be joined by Cantor Emerita Annie Rose, accompanied by pianist, Ray McLellan, bringing to focus the indelible legacy of Rabbi Levy.

Rabbi Levy

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Melvin and Lois Levy Endowment Fund. The event will take place on Thursday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Purchase tickets online to ensure seats, at www.tbesisterhood.org. The cost is $18 adult/$10 student. For mail-in purchase, send a check, payable to TBE Sisterhood (specify number of tickets) to Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Street, Ann Arbor, 48104.

Hadassah resale program

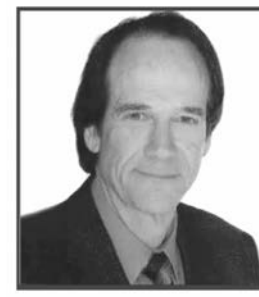
Judy Williams, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Chapter of Hadassah collects women's clothing and household items to bring to re-sale consignment shops in order to raise money for worthwhile Hadassah programs.

Now is a great time to clean out your closets as you change over your wardrobe for the spring and summer seasons. Resale organizers will accept name-brand clothing that is stain-free and current (on hangers); any season's clothing throughout the year is acceptable.

Household items are also of value. Donations of good quality household items should be placed in light-weight boxes. Items such as glass, dish and flatware sets, picture frames, decorative items, serving platters and bowls, and small electrical devices would be appreciated.

To schedule a pick-up appointment, contact Judy Williams at naugwarren@aol.com or (734) 476-4474



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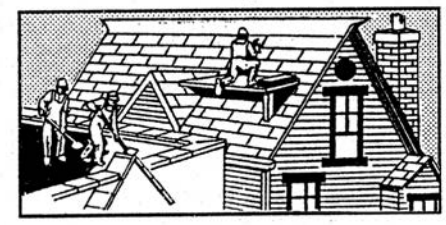
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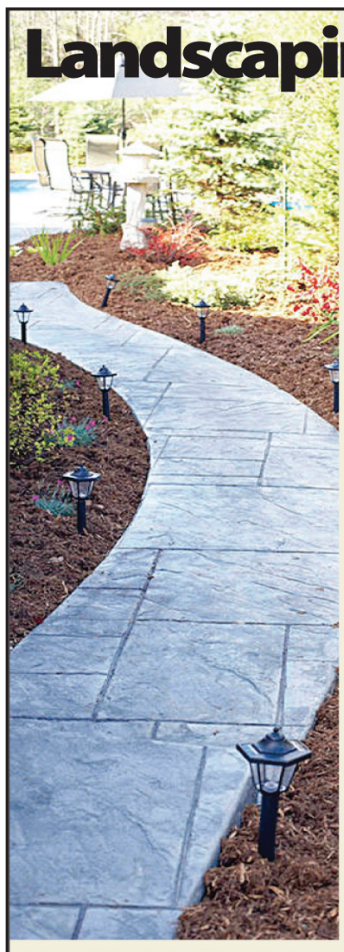

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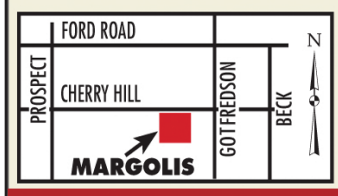

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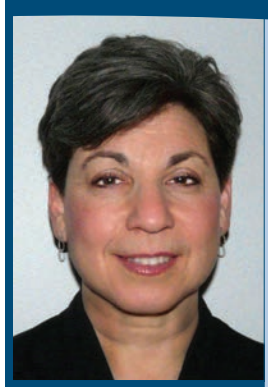

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The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation's Beit Sefer

Rebecca Ball, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation's (AARC) Beit Sefer, a religious school that welcomes the children of non-members as well as members, will be holding an Open House at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday, May 1, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. During the Open House prospective students can attend classes during a normal school day and parents can either sit in on the classes and enjoy the day's activities, or talk with other students' parents and the school's director, Clare Kinberg, to determine whether the Beit Sefer might provide a rewarding experience for their own children.

The Beit Sefer delivers individualized attention and creative instruction for kindergarten through pre-b'nei mitzvah children. The teachers, experienced and learned in Jewish education, are assisted by enthusiastic teen-aged members of the AARC. There are three classrooms, divided by general age level. For young elementary age children (K–2), the K'tanim classroom focuses on the joy of learning through storytelling, movement and relationships. The Yeladim class, for grades 3–4, brings together games and activities with a stronger academic focus. Finally, 5–7 graders participate in the G'dolim class, which is characterized by discussion and more formal instruction. All three classes give attention to multiple areas of Jewish learning, including Bible stories, Hebrew language holidays, prayers, Jewish culture around the world, and ethical issues.

This learning is accomplished through engaging activities, which often involve the whole family. Parents and students together built and decorated a sukkah with greenery the students gathered. And all three classes prepared to lead prayer during the AARC's Shabbat services. All the classes participate in Hebrew instruction; the older students learn Hebrew through an online learning platform, while the elementary kids participate in the Hebrew Through Movement program, which uses a kinesthetic learning model, allowing the students to use their bodies to run and jump and play while they learn the Hebrew letters and words.

Giving students a stake in their community, and connecting them to issues facing society, is also a key aspect of the Beit Sefer. For Martin Luther King day, AARC co-chair Margo Schlanger, a professor at the University of Michigan Law School, led a discussion about the Ten Commandments. Schlanger helped the students to work out an understanding of the principles behind the commandments, which connected them to the goal of the Civil Rights Movement: equality. The students realized, Schlanger said, that "you don't kill people, or steal from them, or lie to them, because those other people are equal to you. Their lives matter, their stuff matters, their feelings matter." Ethical discussions such as this one help students to bring together the ideals of Judaism with what they see and know about the world around them.

For another recent Beit Sefer project, the students gathered together donations from members of the AARC for Jewish Family Services to create welcome baskets for refugee families resettling in Washtenaw County. AARC Beit Sefer teacher Sharon Alvandi, a student in the U-M Jewish Communal Leadership Program, took the lead to organize this important community service project. Once assembled, the welcome baskets--dish soap, towels, sheets, cleaning supplies and other necessities--were donated to JFS and provided to new refugee families. The youngest students created cards for the families to welcome them to their new homes. Not only did this project inspire understanding of the ethical principles of generosity and of welcoming the stranger, it also served as a launch pad for important historical discussions about such topics as the violence and war that have too often decimated communities.

The director of the Beit Sefer, Clare Kinberg, has introduced a focus this year on project-based learning. Students' own curiosity about a topic surfaces driving questions that they investigate; they then present their discoveries to other students and parents, who assemble weekly at the end of school. Rather than merely being lectured or preached at, this approach allows the students the space to explore, discover, and release their own inspiration. Through this interactive and personal method of learning, young people feel an enthusiasm and connection to their Jewishness that has unfortunately all too often been stamped out of young people by more traditional religious schools. According to Kinberg, "AARC seeks to inspire its students to be knowledgeable and comfortable enough with Jewish tradition to feel free to innovate, adding their own links to *di goldene kayt* (the golden chain) of Jewish civilization."

The AARC Beit Sefer meets at the Ann Arbor Jewish Community Center on Sunday mornings from 9:30–11:30 a.m. September through May. For more information see http://aarecon.org/what-we-do/learning/religious-school/. The Open House, on May 1, begins at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. ■

This month's activities at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Erev Yom Hashoah

Wednesday, May 4
7:30 p.m. Mincha/Maariv Service with Yom Hashoah Readings and Lighting of Memorial Candles in the Sanctuary
8 p.m. "The Shoah in the Ukrainian Shtetl" presented by Jeffrey Veidlinger

Based on videotaped Yiddish-language oral histories conducted with Jews living in small-towns throughout Ukraine, Jeffrey Veidlinger will discuss the particular ways the Holocaust affected Soviet Jews and the variety of Soviet Jewish responses. The experiences of the Jews in Ukraine is unlike what is commonly thought of as the paradigmatic Holocaust experience. This will be an audio-visual presentation on a topic not well known in the United States.

Jeffrey Veidlinger is the Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. He is an expert in modern Russian and Eastern European Jewish history and was named a "Top Young Historian" by the History News Network. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *The Moscow State Yiddish Theater: Jewish Culture on the Soviet Stage* (2000), which won a National Jewish Book Award and the Barnard Hewitt Award for Theatre Scholarship and was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. His book *Jewish Public Culture in the Late Russian Empire* (2009) won the Abe and Fay Bergel Award in Scholarship at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards, as well as the J. I . Segal Award. His just-released book, *In the Shadow of the Shtetl: Small-Town Jewish Life in Soviet Ukraine* (2013), is based on some 400 interviews with Yiddish-speakers conducted in the small towns of Eastern Europe. He is currently working on a project about Jewish migration, population displacement and border crossings.

This is the season's last Spotlight Series presentation.

Community-wide Yom Hazikaron Ceremony: Marking Israel's Remembrance Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism

Tuesday, May 10, 7–7:45 p.m.

Volunteers from the community will present memorial poems and songs in Hebrew (always with English translations) and English. These poems are strikingly emotive and best exemplify the ongoing sacrifices experienced by soldiers and civilians in the State of Israel. Candles will be lit in memory of those civilians and soldiers killed over the past eight months of terror attacks. In addition, a PowerPoint display that memorializes the lives of some of the fallen over the years will be screened. Rabbis from various congregations are also involved in this moving event.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturday, May 14 and 21, 9 a.m.

Adults are invited for Torah study over coffee and cake. The discussions, led by Rabbi Dobrusin, are informal, lively and participatory. The study begins with traditional texts and participants add their own thoughts on the Torah, Haftarah portion of the week, or other traditional texts. ■

Temple Beth Emeth classes and events

Nellie Stansbury, special to the WJN

Families with Young Children (FYC): Tot Shabbat Service Every Friday

May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5:45 p.m., TBE Sanctuary
5:45 p.m., Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services with Cantor Hayut
6:15 p.m. Dinner for Tot Shabbat,
6:45 p.m. Shira Service

All of your favorite songs led by TBE's tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Levy.

Join for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately following the short service. Dinner is just $5 per person and this year you can buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

Sukkat Shalom | The Peaceful Shelter of Shabbat

Elementary Shabbat Services with Rabbi Levy
Fridays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5:45 p.m., TBE Chapel

What to do after Tot Shabbat no longer meets your needs and, more importantly, the needs of your children? Not to worry, we are expanding service offerings for our youngest members! Join with us for Sukkat Shalom, The Peaceful Shelter of Shabbat. Held parallel to Tot Shabbat, this will be a quieter moment for our children in grades K–3.

Shalom Gever | Peaceful Warrior Martial Arts

Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, and 23, 4:15–7 p.m., TBE Social Hall
Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 4:15–7 p.m., TBE Core
Fridays, May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 3:30–5:45 p.m., TBE Core

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Adult Yoga Classes with Shlomit!

11:45-1:00 p.m. in the Temple Beth Emeth Social Hall
Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19, and 26

To learn more about the instructor, Shlomit Cohen, check out her website at mivyoga.com

Drop-in is $15 payable in the office.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit

1:15 p.m. in the TBE Chapel
Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, Temple Beth Emeth

For practitioners of all levels. Intention and instruction followed by 30-minute silent meditation. Facilitated by SooJi Min, Judy Freedman, and Quyen Epstein-Ngo. SooJi Min is TBE's executive director. She recently completed a 16-month mindfulness teacher training program sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and the Awakened Heart Project. Judy Freedman has practicing meditation for over 20 years. She attended a three-year training in Jewish Meditation sponsored by the Philips Foundation at Chochmat ha Lev. Quyen Epstein-Ngo is a therapist who holds a joint doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology and Women's Studies. One of the areas she specializes in is working with adolescents, adults, and couples on issues of faith and spirituality. Contact SooJi Min with questions, 665-4744.

Comforting the Mourner: Preparing All Aspects of Leading a Shiva Minyan

Monday, May 2, 7–9 p.m., TBE Chapel

One of the greatest mitzvot in Jewish practice is comforting the mourner. In these 2 hour class sessions, learn with Cantor Hayut the various skills needed to lead a shiva minyan. This class will address the specific aspects of the service. Assignments will be made in advance of each session so that this working practice group can hone their skills in front of others before leading a formal service. All participants will receive take home materials for future reference. Contact cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org for more information.

Weekly Lunch and Learn

Fridays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Each week, Rabbi Levy brings his choice of text. They will come from both inside and outside the Jewish tradition and from the Torah exploring a social justice agenda in our communities. Feel free to come and bring lunch. As this is Rabbi's last year before his retirement, you will not want to miss this weekly gem!

Library Memoir Writing

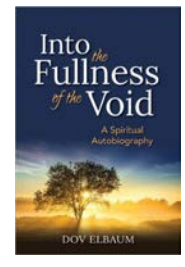
Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m., TBE Library

Hear from local memoir writers about what it took for them to write and publish memoirs. No RSVP necessary, all members of the Jewish community welcome!

The Spirituality Book Club

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 12, noon

Cantor Emerita Annie Rose will be returning to facilitate the spirituality book club, generously sponsored by the Year of Torah Fund. It will meet monthly from October-May. Each month will feature a different book with two session times. The book club will meet Thursdays at lunchtime (noon–1 p.m.) and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., in the adult lounge at TBE.



Into the Fullness of the Void: A Spirituality Autobiography, by Dov Elbaum.

Men's Torah Study Reinvented

Every 2nd and 4th Monday, May 9 and 23, 7 p.m.

A men's Torah discussion group will be led by a lay leader on the 2nd Monday and by Rabbi Levy on the 4th Monday. We will find our way as men by wrestling with text. For more information contact Bill Parkus, parkus@comcast.net.

Women's Torah Study

Every 2nd and 4th Monday, May 9 and 23, 7 p.m.

Led by Cantor Regina Hayut, the group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary. For questions, contact Cantor Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org.

Celebrate Israel Shabbat

Friday, May 13, 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth

All are welcome for services and the conclusion of the three-part series featuring Rabbi Levy and David Shtulman, executive director of the Jewish Federation. An Oneg will follow; no RSVP necessary.

Mindfulness Workshop

Thursday, May 5, 19, 26 and June 2
Monday, May 9 and June 6

Moving from Liberation to Revelation. Explore the intersection of Judaism, mindfulness and social justice over the course of eight weeks between Pesach and Shavuot. Come to one or all of the sessions. Led by Rabbi Robert Levy and SooJi Min.

TBE Family Camping Trip

Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30

Rabbi Robert Levy and SooJi Min will lead a family camping trip filled with outdoor fun. Contact SooJi Min at sjmin@templebethemeth.org with questions.

AARTY Shul-In

Friday, May 6, 7 p.m.

All 8–12 graders welcome! Elections for next year's student board will be held, as well as a special senior sendoff program. Cost $15/teen, RSVPs to aostfield@templebethemeth.org. ■

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Rabbis' Corner

Getting too close to God

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

On the Shabbat of May 7, we will be reading the Torah portion called Acharei. The portion begins by mentioning the passing away, in the Holy of Holies, of two of Aharon's sons, which happened because of their entering there without permission. The Midrash gives a number of reasons why they passed away there.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

1) Simply the fact that they entered, without authorization, the Holy of Holies. This area is off-limits to everyone at all times except for the High Priest on Yom Kippur. It contains the Holy Ark and the Tablets of the 10 commandments.
2) When the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur, he had to wear a certain, prescribed, clothing outfit. If one failed to wear the designated clothing – he was sentenced to death.
3) They were not married—no wives or children—also a requirement for entrance to the inner chamber of the Mishkan.

What is a common thread in all these reasons that necessitates a penalty of losing one's life.

First, if we look in the first verse it says, "God spoke to Moses after the passing of the children of Aharon, and they passed away." This seems redundant. Why does the Torah need to reiterate the point?

Another question is, how can these two, very special, righteous young men, Nadav and Avihu, commit such a grievous sin as to be subject to Divine capital punishment?

We can answer these questions in the context of Chasidus — the mystical and spiritual aspect of Torah. This will help to cast light on the questions we are pondering regarding the severe punishment Nadav and Avihu suffered.

One of the explanations is that the passing of Aharon's two sons was not the result of their desire to commit a sin. On the contrary, it was because they were such great, righteous people that they had in their hearts a strong, burning desire to be close to God. This strong desire to be near the infinite, holy light of God is what caused their souls to leave their physical bodies and return to Heaven. Therefore, their passing away wasn't actually a punishment but rather just a symptom of their extreme desire to be close to God. We can see how great these sons of Aharon were with their tremendous love for God. But the question remains as to why they had to pass away. Actually, this was considered a serious sin — not the desire in and of itself — but because they were leaving their responsibilities in this physical incarnation in order to return to the spiritual world. This is not what God wants.

God placed our souls here in the physical world in order that we should make this a place worthy for God to dwell — not a place to run away from in order to return to the comfort and bliss of the spiritual world. Our mission is to make this lower, crude physicality into a sanctified and refined place worthy of God's presence. Nadav and Avihu were running away from their earthly responsibilities to heal, correct and rectify physicality. They were abandoning the mission that they were given when God placed their souls in a body on this physical plane of existence. The purpose of Man is to sanctify, to refine, and to elevate this world – to actually change it from the way it was created to the extent that it be converted to a world that is fitting for the dwelling of God. This experience that the sons of Aharon had of having their souls leave their bodies, is a form of negligence and abandonment of their God-given mission to work within physical, natural laws to improve the world and make it a dwelling place for God. This tremendous desire that they had, to be one with God, was not considered a virtue in this case but rather considered a sin.

> *God placed our souls here in the physical world in order that we should make this a place worthy for God to dwell.*

This leads to an explanation of the previously mentioned question of the apparent redundancy of the Torah mentioning twice that they passed away. This is not telling us the punishment that they received, it is telling us the cause that led to their expiration. Their sin was that their souls got so close to God that they left their bodies, which made them negligent in their obligation to serve God and improve this physical world by following God's ways.

We can also explain the other questions from the Midrash that we posed above:

What was the cause of their passing away?

a) Unauthorized entry into the Holy of Holies: The presence of God was so overwhelming that their bodies could not withstand the power and thus they expired.
b) They were missing the proper clothing: The proper attire for performing the

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Parashat Kedoshim

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

On Shabbat morning, May 14, we will read from Parashat Kedoshim, one of the most remarkable sections of the entire Torah. Known as the "holiness code," chapter 19 of Leviticus departs from the frequent theme of the book. Instead of details concerning sacrifice and purity, chapter 19 focuses almost exclusively on interpersonal behavior.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

The message of the chapter is that actions matter. In fact, in a commentary on the most famous verse in this chapter: "Love your neighbor as yourself," a commentator notes that, grammatically, the word "neighbor" is the object of a preposition, not a direct object. Literally, the Torah says; "You should love to your neighbor." The commentary infers from this that what is required is action not just thought. We must display love to our neighbors, not just feel concern for them.

But, there is another message in this chapter. Not only do actions matter, but words matter as well.

Let me cite two examples. First, there is the commandment not to curse the deaf person. How are to understand how cursing someone who can't hear us could, in fact, be a problem?

The most common answer is that the curse is heard by others and might cause them to respond negatively toward the individual according to the curse that they hear. It is also possible, that repeated use of insulting language, even aimed at someone who is not able to hear it, becomes a habit. Thus, cursing a person who can't hear the curse is wrong.

Another example of how words matter based on this chapter is found in a famous Talmudic commentary on the commandment not to take revenge or hold a grudge, both found in Leviticus 19.

The rabbis delineate the difference between revenge and holding a grudge. They say that if a person asks if he or she can borrow a tool from you, you are not allowed to say: "I won't lend it to you because you didn't lend me your tool when I asked", because that is taking revenge. However, when you say: "I will lend it to you even though you didn't lend me your tool when I asked", that is holding a grudge. Both are wrong.

I love that commentary. It teaches that even if one performs a proper action, the words one uses can undermine the holiness of the act.

Words matter.

They matter in our private lives and they certainly matter in our public lives.

We are currently absorbed in a presidential campaign in which we have been bombarded with words and it goes without saying that words have been used in destructive ways in this election campaign.

If one performs a proper action, the words one uses can undermine the holiness of the act. Words matter. They matter in our private lives and they certainly matter in our public lives.

I have read many books on presidents and presidential campaigns and it is obvious that the idea of attacking rival candidates with less than kind language is nothing new in our nation. But, the tone of much of the language is so childish, that it makes a mockery of the seriousness of the issues that this campaign must address.

And, beyond the petty insults of other candidates, the words which some candidates have chosen to use against our neighbors: whether women, immigrants, Muslims or any particular group are reprehensible. These words have power and they affect us all.

Our nation faces important issues in this presidential election and every word should have meaning. When candidates attack each other with insulting language or use harmful words against our neighbors, it is demeaning to who we are as a nation.

Words matter. ■

continued from previous page

service in the Holy of Holies was a critical component of the successful completion of that service. The specified clothing symbolized the "clothing" of the soul that keeps us grounded in this world. They went close to the power of God without the proper "clothing".

c) They were unmarried and without children: This illustrates how they divorced themselves from the physical requirements of working with the natural, physicality of this world. They ignored those responsibilities because they were so strongly attracted to God. It might have been that they thought that "holiness" was incompatible with the "mundane" responsibilities of a physical life.

So we can learn a very important lesson from the passing away of Aharon's sons Nadav and Avihu. There are times in life when we will have deeply profound spiritual experiences. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we feel very elevated and attracted to holiness. Nevertheless, after these experiences we should not forget that it's not enough to have these nice experiences while sitting in a synagogue. We need to remember to take them home with us and incorporate them into our "mundane" physical life. We should sanctify and refine our physical lives so that we live a life permeated with the holiness of God. The message is: work with the world and make it a place for God. This is the main purpose for which God created us. Our souls were placed in a physical body in a physical world in order that we should rectify and elevate the physical world into a place worthy to be considered a dwelling place for God. ■

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Robin and Brad Axelrod have made their home in Ann Arbor since 1989 and have been actively involved in the Ann Arbor Jewish community. Each of them has served on the Hebrew Day School Board and is an active member of the Beth Israel Congregation.

Robin is the Immediate Past President of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and served on the board of the Jewish Federation. She has had leadership positions on a number of boards and initiatives of national Jewish organizations.

Brad was a board member at the Beth Israel Congregation and has chaired the Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival for the last two years.

Their sons Robert (Class of 2004) and Ari (Class of 2006) cite Hebrew Day School as one the key formative experiences in building their Jewish identities. The friends they made at HDS remain among their closest friends to date. The same is true for Brad and Robin: their strong Ann Arbor Jewish community is rooted in the friendships forged as HDS parents.

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PJ Library coming to Camp Raanana

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

Ethan G. Krasnow, director of Camp Raanana and Community Programs and Wellness at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, was awarded a special grant to bring 25 books this summer to Camp Raanana, from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Camp Raanana is one of 65 JCC camps around the country receiving books this summer to be utilized by campers ages 4 through 8 to enhance Jewish literacy. This new partnership between the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) and JCC Association reinforces the importance of Jewish literacy at a young age. Kransow plans to incorporate PJ Library books as part of camp programming to improve literacy and inspire children to love books, reading, and Jewish ideas. "Summer is as great a time for relaxing with a good book as it is a great time to be outdoors. I want Camp Raanana to not only inspire a love of physical activity and getting outdoors, but also a love of self-expression through art and language. What better way to help kids embrace language and literacy than to use stories and ideas from the PJ Library books to inspire their fun in the sun," says Krasnow.

This partnership is part of the JCC Association's Day Camp Initiative — a continental effort to raise the profile of Jewish day camp. "I'm delighted that PJ Library and HGF have chosen to partner with us to add the richness of PJ Library books to the resources that our day camp staff will have available to bring Jewish learning to life," said Alan Mann, interim president and CEO of JCC Association. "JCC day camps are the entry point into Jewish life for over 65 thousand children each summer, and we believe in providing valuable tools to enhance summer learning and programs to connect campers to a life of Jewish engagement," said Aaron Greenberg, senior consultant for Day Camp Initiatives at JCC Association. "There's also incredible potential to reach the 12,000 young adults who work at JCC day camps each summer," Greenberg added, noting that for most day camp staff, working at camp is not only their first real job, but their first exposure to Jewish communal work. Krasnow adds, "I absolutely love having this program at camp because it gives not only our campers, but also our teen and young adult staff the chance to learn and teach Jewish values." Camp Raanana serves all of Washtenaw County and is the only full service outdoor day camp in the area that operates in an environment usually only available in a residential camp setting, offering swimming, boating, fishing, arts & crafts, archery, sports, and overnights.

The PJ Library grant is an example of the broad-based support provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), both for JCCA and for local JCCs throughout the country. In addition to marrying Harold Grinspoon's two passions, Jewish camp and Jewish books, the PJ Library grant for day camps helps unite two great Jewish community partners. "We are delighted to partner with the JCCA to offer this wonderful opportunity to day camps across the country," said Mark Gold, executive director of HGF's JCamp180. "Many JCCs are partnering with PJ Library to provide another way for the community to impact families raising young children. Since PJ Library sends the gift of Jewish books and music to children through age eight, this is one of many opportunities for mutual marketing support and joint program development."

"When we work together, we can make a bigger difference," said Marcie Greenfield Simons, director of PJ Library. PJ Library often brings out families who have not yet been connected to the organized Jewish community. Working together, JCC camps and PJ Library provide two key resources that can keep young Jewish families remain engaged year round. Started as a small project sending books to 200 children in Western Massachusetts in 2005, PJ Library now delivers more than 130,000 Jewish books per month to children throughout North America. Last month Grinspoon personally delivered the five-millionth PJ Library book to a three-year-old in Natick, Massachusetts. His Foundation also invests over $2.2 million annually in Jewish summer camps, much of which is leveraged by those camps to provide $151 million in total impact. For more information about the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, visit www.hgf.org. Camp Raanana registration is open through the end of May 2016 and is already showing growth compared to last year at this time. For more information about Camp Raanana, contact Ethan Krasnow at (734) 971-0990 or ethankrasnow@jccannarbor.org or visit camp.jccannarbor.org. ■

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Hebrew Day School talks about God

Jen Rosenberg, special to WJN

Third and fourth graders gathered together with their parents to share a meal and a program about God. The program, led by their Judaic Studies teacher, Morah Leah (Lisa Bernstein), was the culminating event of a 10-week unit on God. Using the book *I Have Some Questions About God* by Bradley Shavit Artson et al, students examined a series of questions about God to help them reflect on, expand, grapple with, clarify and discuss their thoughts. The students also consulted stories and rabbinic commentary to add to the perspectives to consider. Throughout the unit, students kept a journal of their evolving thoughts and reflections and shared some of these with their parents and the parents of their classmates at the program. One of the skills the students worked hard to master was the ability to engage in respectful dialogue that includes plenty of disagreement. Rather than saying, "I am against X on that point." They learned to say, "I disagree with the point made about Y because...."

Student enjoys a conversation with a classmate's parent

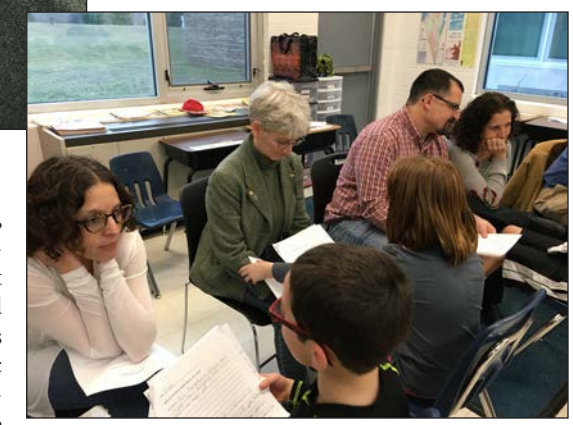
Using something like a "speed dating" protocol, students and parents had five minutes to discuss a question, consider a story that speaks to that question or reflect on an alternative yet related question. When time was called, students moved one seat to the next parent (or set of parents) to address another question. This protocol was paused at various points to make space for student-created skits that contextualized the ideas in student-centric scenarios. The students wrapped up the presentation by sharing their ideas, noting where they agreed or disagreed with the ideas offered in the scene, and expanding on the thoughts shared by the group.

The students' excitement in discussing their ideas was truly remarkable. Equally remarkable was the engagement of all the parents; leaning in, animated and actively sharing, debating and prompting the students for more information. "This [was] the best HDS event I've ever attended," said Mira Sussman, third grade parent. "We got to have deep meaningful conversations with Ishai's classmates, many of whom I haven't spoken to this way before. Truly incredible."

Below is a sampling, three of the questions with an amalgamation of some of the resulting ideas and responses offered by the students:

Is the Bible true?

As with virtually every question we addressed, there are some students who believe the Bible is true and some who do not. In digging deeper, it becomes clear that many of the students start off equating truth with historical fact. Through the stories in the book and their developing thinking, they came to understand that truth might mean lessons or themes that are true for us. Themes of freedom, responsibility for others, loyalty and justice, as well as lessons about resting on Shabbat, making peace in the family, following rules, and belief in God can all be gleaned from the stories that may or may not have happened the way the Bible reports.



Parents and student engage in conversations about God

Does God know what I'm thinking?

Students had some amazing thoughts on this. Many spoke about free will, some believe that God has foreknowledge of our decisions, but that the decisions are our own. When one student commented that God cannot stop us from making bad choices, another commented that this means that God isn't as powerful as the Bible says! In response, another student suggested that perhaps God is that powerful, but chooses not to use that power. These comments demonstrate such high-level thinking that it seemed I was in the presence of rabbis, who have debated these issues for centuries!

Can praying make someone well?

Most students agreed with the consensus that praying doesn't necessarily cause God to heal someone's body, but rather when someone is sick and knows people are praying, it can increase hope and make them feel stronger emotionally. A few students believe that prayer can heal in a more direct way. And several students articulated ideas that bad things can make us stronger, tougher, and we can learn from them. We also discussed things that are good to do when visiting someone who is ill. ■

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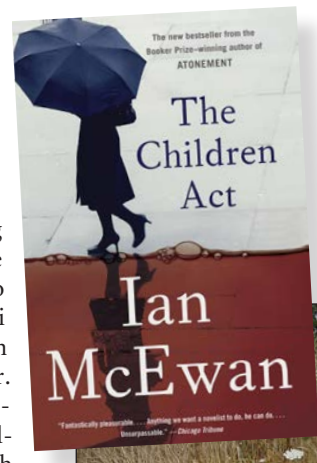
Another view of intimacy: *The Children Act*, by Ian McEwan

Rachel Urist, staff writer

Reading a novel by Ian McEwan is like slipping into a warm, restorative bath. This, his thirteenth novel (2014) revolves around a woman who has reached the top of her profession. She is a British High Court Judge married to a professor of ancient history. She presides over family law cases, and those chosen to embellish this novel are meticulously outlined.



Early in the book, the story takes a brief Jewish turn, when the protagonist must decide to whom to grant decision-making power regarding the schooling of the two daughters of a Haredi father and a modern orthodox mother. The mother has chosen to send the children to a co-ed Jewish day-school, whose students use the internet, watch television, listen to pop music, and even mix with non-Jewish children. McEwan writes: "On the surface, the dispute concerned Rachel and Nora's schooling. However, at stake was the entire context of the girls' growing up. It was a fight for their souls." A bit later: "The court must choose, on behalf of the children, between total religion and something a little less. Between cultures, identities, states of mind, aspirations, sets of family relations, fundamental definitions, basic loyalties, unknowable futures."

Ian McEwan

The novel alights on other cases, most crucially, the family of Jehovah's Witnesses. The son has leukemia and refuses transfusion, as do his parents. Without the transfusion, he will die. How will the judge rule?

The novel rests on a bed of marital tension. The protagonist and her husband, married 35 years, find their marriage on the rocks. Their love for each other is intact, but life's messy details, including discrepant states of desire, threaten their union. The husband is attracted to a younger woman, "A pretty statistician working on the diminishing probability of a man returning to an embittered wife."

Despite those tensions, reading Ian McEwan is like settling into a canoe under blue skies and heading downstream without need of paddles, because the current carries you along, around the rocks, and delivers you to a destination you couldn't see but are delighted to find. McEwan weaves his own love of music and his musical erudition into the novel by making the judge a classical pianist and her husband a jazz aficionado. The novel includes lilting evocations of passages from Mozart and Mahler to Keith Jarrett and Benny Goodman. The combination of eloquence and scholarship is thrilling.

His writing is uplifting, whatever the subject. Consider these words on the aging male: "His white chest hair, of which he remained proud, curled out over his shirt's top button only to declare that it was no longer black; the head hair, thinning monkishly in the familiar pattern, he had grown long in unconvincing compensation; shanks less muscular, not quite filling out his jeans, the eyes holding a gentle hint of future vacancy, with a matching hollowness about the cheeks." And, on the female: "…her ankles thickening in coquettish reply, her backside swelling like summer cumulus, her waist waxing stout as her gums receded." ■

Lesley Stahl

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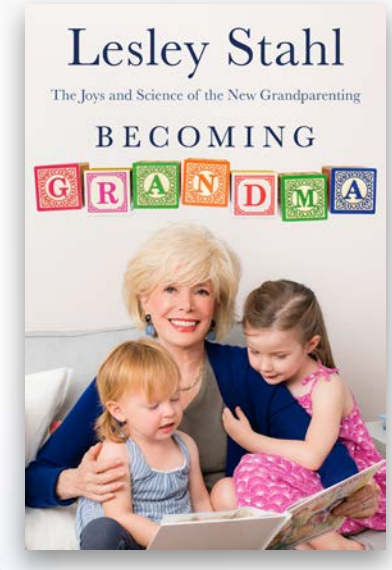

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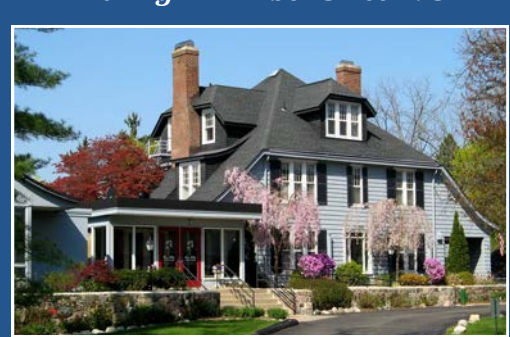

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Rhapsody in Schmaltz: Yiddish food and why we can't stop eating it

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

Heartburn is History. That's what Michael Wex—the author of *Just Say Nu, Born to Kvetch, and How to Be a Mentsh (and Not a Schmuck)*, among other works with Jewish themes — had hoped to title his new book. The publisher, St. Martin Press, vetoed it.

So instead, Mr. Wex's latest work was published last month as *Rhapsody in Schmaltz: Yiddish Food and Why We Can't Stop Eating It*. Infused with history, humor, and even hunger pangs, but no accompanying packet of Tums, it is a true love letter to traditional Ashkenazy cuisine: cholent, gefilte fish, schmaltz, and more.

In a recent phone interview, Toronto-based Mr. Wex, who has taught at the University of Michigan and has visited Ann Arbor as a featured author at the Jewish Book Festival, enthusiastically talked about the book. He also happened to veer into discussing fluffernutter sandwiches and the notion of serving sushi at Pesach. It was a wide-ranging conversation.

"There are a lot of dishes that nobody eats anymore," Mr. Wex said. "If you mention these dishes, people just look at you" with curiosity or horror. "People ate this???" might be what they'd ask, he said. But many Yiddish – specifically Ashkenazy, rather than the more-encompassing term "Jewish" – foods were determined by economy.

Lungs were once "a major Jewish meat," as were brains, said Mr. Wex. "Thank God lung was made illegal for human consumption in 1971," he said with enormous relief.

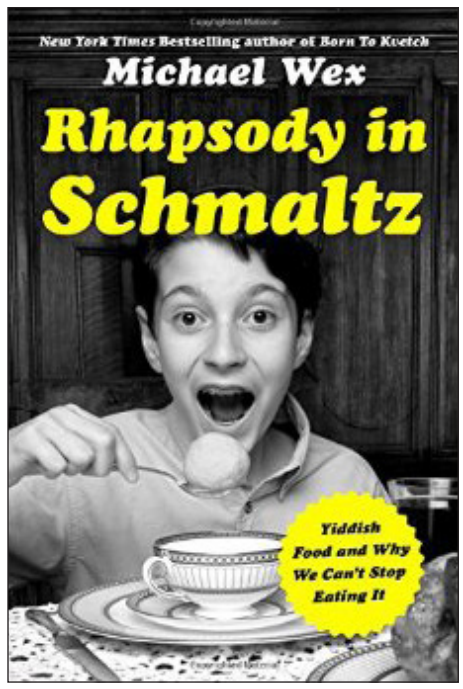
"They were cheap, to start with," Mr. Wex said of the once-popular meats. And "offal was exempt from the kosher meat tax." The Russian empire used to levy a tax, and then the Jewish community sought further payments. "It was widely, widely hated," he said. "The administration of it was widely corrupt," and a means of profiting from "people's need to eat."

"Jellies and aspics were considered a very high class thing" at one time, he continued. Mr. Wex pointed out that there is no need, actually, for the gel in a jar of gefilte fish; but "people like that kind of thing," and it served to elevate the mass-produced food.

Gefilte fish itself was once far more sophisticated than it is now, and dates back to the 17th century. Massialot, head chef to Louis XIV's brother Philippe, prepared a dish called carpes farcies which differs "in only a couple of details from Jewish gefilte fish," writes Mr. Wex in the book. It contains eel, making it *treyf*; but "the basic idea is no different" when looking at how the dish is prepared.

Ptcha (calves' foot jelly), in Mr. Wex's opinion, is merely "this neutral medium for the delivery of garlic," though it used to be tremendously popular and has even "been noted in early Yiddish literature." It is an ancestor to the *goyische* lime Jell-O with fruit salad. The bright green concoction, said Mr. Wex, is "actually a very Jewish thing," then, when viewed in its historical context instead of as merely a contribution to a church potluck.

Contemporary vegan options, such as carrot "lox" or tofu cream cheese, would fall under "the tradition of the great dairy restaurants," Mr. Wex said. There are a lot of Jewish vegans, he noted, though in his experience he finds they eat more traditionally animal-free recipes than those with any specific Yiddish influence. Only on Shabbos and on holidays would a more Jewish flavor be desired, much as



tofurkeys replicate the centerpiece bird at Thanksgiving. Traditions are hard to break, even when new dietary habits have been adopted.

Speaking of tradition led to talk of the infamous rainbow bagels prepared by The Bagel Store in Brooklyn, which were a recent internet sensation. For every person who placed an order for the bagels – which are filled with funfetti icing-like cream cheese and whose swirls make them resemble a skein of yarn – virtually every Jew was declaring them a *shanda*.

"The bagel has been allowed to evolve in some ways," Mr. Wex said, but not others. His personal opinion is that "flavored bagels go back a long way," so it's not particularly new or novel to find one with a taste reminiscent of Froot Loops. But if the bagel isn't boiled, then it doesn't qualify as a bagel. He was somewhat reassured to hear that the dough is hand-rolled, but the water bath remains the primary criterion for judging: "As long as [they're] boiled, that's okay."

But why is the neon-colored bagel considered an affront, while lox an' a *schmear* complete the bagel? "My great-grandparents would roll over in their graves," Mr. Wex said, to think of some soft white cheese and slices of fish being inserted between two halves of a basic street food that's "suddenly [become] a big deal."

What is Mr. Wex's own favorite Yiddish food? "I like kugel," he said. Which variety? "Sweet for me," though he does enjoy the potato and Yerushalmi varieties. But he doesn't have any interest in the dessert-style offerings, and told a story about what he called "the greatest shock of my life."

"I was in Berlin, and there was a kosher dairy restaurant," he said, a welcome find while traveling. He and a friend with an interest in Jewish food went to try the place, and Mr. Wex was even duly impressed to see "kigel" — the term he'd grown up using — listed on the menu.

Imagine his horror, then, when expecting a certain degree of familiarity, to be served "noodles with ice cream on top," with a small paper umbrella ("like in a tiki bar") placed decoratively as a garnish. His companion completed the moment by asking, with hopeful anticipation, whether this was just like the kugel he'd eaten at home for Shabbos celebrations.

When asked about the validity of Fluffernutter Rugelach, an offering in Michael Solomonov's cookbook *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking*, Mr. Wex shared memories of marshmallow Fluff, an item he would see advertised on television during his childhood in Alberta, raised in an Orthodox home.

"The day that got a hekhsher" was a day of celebration, he said. "I ran out, I bought a jar. I started singing the Fluffernutter song." (Mr. Wex admits to having a "letter-

Michael Wex

perfect memory" of old t.v. commercials from the 1960s, with which he is happy to regale people at parties.) He immediately made a fluffernutter sandwich – Fluff and peanut butter– and then made another one. And then he didn't use it again 'til he threw it out, likely years later.

The authenticity of the rugelach had been called into question by someone who'd declared them – despite a butter-rich dough and the requisite spiral – invalid without the traditional fruit, nut, or chocolate filling. "Everybody's an expert," Mr. Wex said with a sense of exasperation, a point made on the very first page of his new book.

The Yiddish-speaking kitchen's principle product isn't chewable and cannot be swallowed. It isn't boiled, broiled, baked, or fried; it's far from kosher and can't be legally killed. It is, of course, the nudnik, from the Yiddish "to bore, to feel nauseous" - flesh-coated windbag stuffed tightly with opinions that tend to repeat.

One can already imagine what a nudnik would say about the prospect of serving sushi at Seder.

Although Mr. Wex says that he can't bring himself to eat *kitnyot* at Pesach despite not being very observant of the dietary laws anymore, and he is "still trying to persuade [himself] to eat quinoa" over the holiday despite it having no restrictions, he wondered whether sushi might "get absorbed" by Jewish culture?

As popular as it is, sushi doesn't have associations like "chicken on Shabbos, matzah balls at Pesach, or blintzes at Shavuot." But who's to say such an association might not develop? Fish in some form is almost universally served at Seder, and the Sephardim have no prohibitions against rice. The Reform and Conservative Movements both also permit *kitnyot* consumption. "Sushi is easily adaptable to the laws of kashrut," said Mr. Wex. "Just have a Jewish person turn on the rice cooker," and many of the other ingredients are raw.

So, he asks: "Will [sushi] be assimilated into the realm of what's considered Jewish?" As the cuisine continues to evolve, how to determine "which are gimmicks and which will remain" of the ideas, *schticks*, and culinary options that older generations would never recognize while younger ones seek to reclaim the foods of their heritage? Many have been "deemed heretical," Mr. Wex said, as "people kvetch about 'this isn't how it was done.'" And yet, as already noted, many others have become enshrined.

After a conversation that also covered the history of kugel as it developed from a dumpling in a cholent pot to a noodle casserole, the inexplicable coconut coating on Pesachdik marshmallows, kreplach being a descendent of Mongol dumplings introduced by Attila the Hun, the nasty temperaments of geese (which made chickens much more welcome for butchering and cooking), and even the Klezmatics, an important question kept cropping up: How far is Yiddish food permitted to evolve while still retaining its identity?

It's not as much about the food but, rather, "the extra-culinary things that go into Jewish foods," Mr. Wex said, which is "what the book is about, in essence." The rules, the pots and pans, whether something "is baked on Shabbos" … these aspects infuse the food with its Jewishness, its Yiddishness.

With regard to the continued evolution of Yiddish food, "It's going to differ from chef to chef and cook to cook," Mr. Wex said. "That kind of stuff will always change." As he wrote in *Rhapsody in Schmaltz*, "Dishes come and dishes go. It's the law of the kitchen."

But that's a good thing. Because then, he said, "what you've got is a living culture." ■

May 2016

Sunday 1

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Series: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Gan Katan: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Graduation: JCPL. Graduation in the Educational Conference Center (Room 1840) at the School of Social Work (1080 South University Ave) To RSVP, contact Paige Walker at vpwalker@umich.edu or (734) 764-5392. 10 a.m.–noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Social Action Committee Meeting: BIC. 10:30 a.m.

Film Screening: JCC. Showing of *Eli: Inspiring Future Generations.* Eliezer Ayalon's story is similar to so many who endured the horrors of the Holocaust. He exhibits a spirit that distinguishes him, allowing him to connect and inspire others through this film. Director Allyson Rockwell will be on hand to talk about the film. For information, contact Karen at (734) 971-0990 or by email at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. 5–6:30 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 2

A2SO Chamber Concert: JCC. Afternoon of music starring the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. $10 per person. Tickets available at www.a2so.org. For information, contact Karen at (734) 971-0990 or by email at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Nachamu Training Session: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 3

Strength and Struggle: Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets: Chabad. New six-session course offered through the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. Course will explore six intriguing, disturbing, and controversial biblical personalities and events from the times of the Prophets: Jephthah's daughter, the rise and fall of King Saul, Ruth's migration to Israel, King David and Bathsheba, the wonders of Elisha, and Jonah and the fish. Through textual analysis and by exploring the ideas offered by classic biblical commentaries, this course offers a snapshot of the first Jewish commonwealth, an era that lasted nearly one thousand years, and probes the personalities within their broad historical and sociological contexts. At first it may seem these stories are full of questions, however we will discover they are full of timeless answers. 9:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

***Yidish Tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome. For information, phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Yom Hashoah Commemoration: BIC. During Mincha and Maariv. 7:30 p.m.

"The Shoah in the Ukranian Shtetl:" BIC. Presented by Professor Jeffrey Veidlinger. 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 4

Mahj: TBE. Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

Library Memoir Writing: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Thursday 5

Yoga with Shlomit: TBE. Noon–1:15 p.m.

Mindfulness Meditation with Paulette: JCC. Mid-day break with Paulette Grotrian, Insight Meditation practitioner since the 1990's. Paulette will discuss the benefits of mindfulness meditation and will walk through guided meditation exercises. For information, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or by email at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:15–2 p.m.

Mindfulness Workshop: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study from the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 6

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Levy: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 3:30–5:45 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Sukkat Shalom from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Generations After Pre-Service Program from 6:45–7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service|Generations After (with Kol Halev) from 7:30–9 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. Once monthly observance of Shabbat with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, followed by a short thematic program in which participants eat a meal and schmooze. Children always welcome. Dinner cost is $10 for non-members per person or $25 per family. This month will feature a Salad Pallooza theme. RSVP online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org/observances/shabbat/ At the JCC. 6:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 7

Mitzvah Day: TBE. All Day.

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 8

Men's Club Planning Session: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Monday 9

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–7 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Mindfulness Workshop: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Tuesday 10

Strength and Struggle: Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets: Chabad. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays. See May 3.*

***Yidish Tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome. For information, phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony: BIC. 7 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: TBE Brotherhood. 7:30–9 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 11

Executive Committee Meeting: TBE. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursday 12

Yoga with Shlomit: TBE. 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Noon– 1 p.m.

"Lessons I Learned About Being a Rabbi Before Going to Rabbinical School:" JCC. Rabbi Dobrusin, well known as one of the rabbis at Beth Israel Congregation, reflects on the lessons he learned about being a Rabbi from working at a Jewish summer camp and being a waiter in a kosher deli. For information, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or by email at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:15–2 p.m.

Celebrate Israel 2016: JFS. Celebrate Israel Independence Day with songs, s'mores and storytelling around the bonfire with Lisa Rose, author of PJ Library book *Shmulik Paints the Town.* Featuring a falafel bar by Chef Cari Kosher Catering. At the JCC. For information, and to register, visit jewishannarbor.org/CI2016 or call Cindy Adams at (734) 677-0100. 6–8 p.m.

Concert: TBE Sisterhood. 7:30–9 p.m.

Board Meeting: TBE Sisterhood. 7:30–9 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Thursday of month.*

Friday 13

Lunch and Learn: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 3:30–5:45 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Sukkat Shalom from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service|Celebrate Israel with David Shtulman from 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 14

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

B'not Mitzvah: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service: AARC. Participative community service integrates traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary English readings. Includes Torah service and discussion. G'dolim Beit Sefer class will help lead the service. At the JCC. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Kiddush: BIC. 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 15

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

100th Birthday Party: BIC. 11 a.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 16

Shalom Gever: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Social Action Committee Meeting: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 17

Strength and Struggle: Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets: Chabad. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays. See May 3.*

***Yidish Tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome. For information, phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 18

Mahj: TBE. Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

Pulpit Committee: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Thursday 19

Yoga with Shlomit: TBE. 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

"Reflections on Chabad Turning Forty:" JCC. Chabad, celebrating its 40th anniversary this past March, strives to be a home away from home for Jewish students while also maintaining a full ser-

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vice congregation for Ann Arbor families. Rabbi Aharon Goldstein will share Chabad's origins in Ann Arbor and what's in store for the future. For information, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or by email at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:15–2 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Thursday of month.*

Mindfulness Workshop: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday 20

Lunch and Learn: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 3:30–5:45 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Sukkat Shalom from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service | High School Senior Blessing from 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 21

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah Service: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Kiddush: TBE. 11:30–2:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 22

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Book Group: JCS. Discussion of *The Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Women Survived the Holocaust.* Snacks provided. For information, see www.jewishculturalsociety.org At the JCC. Noon.

Choir Performance: JCC. Chaverim B'Shirim, the volunteer choir at the J, will present "The Wizard Who Wrote the Wizard of Oz," featuring the work of Harold Arlen who composed songs for the famous *Cotton Club* as well as for Hollywood film studios. For information, (734) 971-0990. 3–5 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 23

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–7 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 24

Strength and Struggle: Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets: Chabad. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays. See May 3.*

***Yidish Tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome. For information, phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 25

Yoga with Shlomit: TBE. 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Sit: TBE. 1:15–2 p.m.

Board Meeting: BIC. 8 p.m.

Guy's Night Out: TBE Brotherhood. Meeting at Zamaan's restaurant. 6–8 p.m.

Mindfulness Workshop: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Thursday 26

"How Detroit Saved the World–The Willow Run Story:" JCC. Randy Hotton, retired U.S. Navy captain, member of the Yankee Air Museum since 1985, and current pilot with the museum, will discuss the history of the museum, events that led to the decision to build the Willow Run Bomber Plant, and the museum's efforts to save the plant. For information, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or by email at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

Annual Lag B'omer Picnic: Chabad. Picnic dinner of hot dogs, salads, and drinks. Fun programs and prizes for children and adults. Time and place to be announced.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Thursday of the month.*

Friday 27

Lunch and Learn: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 3:30–5:45 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Sukkat Shalom from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service from 7:30–9 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat Services and Potluck: AARC. At the JCC. 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 28

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

B'not Mitzvah: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Kiddush: TBE. 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Camping Trip: TBE. Offsite. Day One begins at 1 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing atend of calendar.*

Sunday 29

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Camping Trip: TBE. Offsite. All day.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 30

Camping Trip: TBE. Offsite. Third and last day.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 31

Strength and Struggle: Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets: Chabad. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays. See May 3.*

***Yidish Tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome. For information, phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Morning services held the second Saturday of each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon integrating traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary readings including Torah service and discussion. A morning of songs and text study takes place the first Saturday of each month. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown. Call 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Frequently listed phone numbers and addresses of organizations

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

May 6	8:20 p.m.
May 13	8:27 p.m.
May 20	8:34 p.m.
May 27	8:41 p.m.

Correction and apologies from the editor

In the April 2016 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News*, we accidentally reversed the Mazel Tovs and Condolences in the Vitals column. Our sincere apologies to all those families involved. The correct listings can be found in this issue on page 23.

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Photo by Carrie Bank

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Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

2935 Birch Hollow Drive • Ann Arbor, Michigan • 48108 • (734)-971-0990 • jccannarbor.org

Vitals

Mazel tov

Matt Segal on his bar mitzvah, April 9.
Micah Pollens-Dempsey on his bar mitzvah, April 15.
Devynn Wilderman on her bat mitzvah, April 16.
Shoshana Pollens-Dempsey on her bat mitzvah, April 16.
Joseph Starosta on his bar mitzvah, April 16.
Renee Starosta on her bat mitzvah, April 16.
Lirit Green on her bat mitzvah, May 7.
Shoshana Green on her bat mitzvah, May 7.
Ari Leflein on his bar mitzvah, May 14.
Madeline Hollander on her bat mitzvah, May 14.
Miriam Wyllie-Scholtz on her bat mitzvah, May 14.
Josh Carlson on his bar mitzvah, May 21.
Chaelee Farquharson on her bat mitzvah, May 28.
Morgan Cummings on her bat mitzvah, May 28.
Joshua and Leora Rubin on the birth of their son, Isaac.
Susan Pollans and Alan Levy on the birth of the grandson, Parker Emmett Mickelson, son of Alissa Mickelson and Dan Mickelson, February 26.
Osnat and Gregory Gafni-Pappas on the birth of their son, Amitai, also grandson of Ari and Ilana Gafni.
Mark and Cindy Saper on the birth of their granddaughter, daughter of Eli and Abby Saper.
Sarah and Michael Tayter on the birth of their daughter, Norah Tayter, March 1.
Sarah Gutin and Ben Chess on the birth of their daughter, Leah Natalie Chess, March 10.
Drs. Bonnie and Michael Fauman on the birth of their granddaughter, Sora Ann, March 10.
Ann Epstein on the birth of her grandson, David Dixon-Epstein, March 15

Condolences

Carolyn Hiss on the death of her husband, Larry Hiss, February 8.
Eileen Nadler on the death of her father, Thomas Henry IV, February 19.
Mark Dohn on the death of his mother, Janice Dohn, February 27.
Steve Leber on the death of his father, Sam Leber, March 5.
Mark Chesler on the death of his wife, Joan Chesler, March 16.
Dvora Schulman on the death of her mother, Ann Klempner.
Marla Biederman on the death of her grandfather, Eli Lipsitz, March 12.
Coleen Slosberg on the death of her brother, McHardy Maxwell Smith, March 15.
Gregory Fox on the death of his wife, Cyndi Cook, March 23.
Lori Curtis on the death of her mother, Harriet Malter, March 26.
Jordan Schreier on the death of his mother, Barbara Schreier, March 27.
Barbra Mazie on the death of her mother, Ingrid Mazie, April 1.
Martha Kransdorf on the death of her father, Bernard Kransdorf, April 2.
Diane Kaplan Vinokur on the death of her mother, Hedy Gruenberger Kaplan Malki, April 3.
The family of Jack Knapp on his death, April 4.
David Ginsburg on the death of his father, Leonard Ginsburg, April 7.
Jan Katz on the death of her mother, Rhoda Martha Ellwood, April 12.
Rabbi Robert Levy, on the death of his mother, Lois Levy, April 12.

Advertisers

Afternoon Delight....23
Alex Milshteyn, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel....3
Amadeus Café/Patisserie....13
American Friends of Magen David....13
Ann Arbor City Club....17
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre....20
Ann Arbor District Library....17
Ann Arbor State Bank....11
The Ark....20
Aunt Agatha's....2
Ayse's Café....15
Bank of Ann Arbor....22
Bennett Optometry....7
Bivouac....23
Bloom Garden Center....10
Brookhaven Manor Apartments....20
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum, mohel....7
Chelsea Flower Shop....10
Dennis Platte Graphic Design....21
Dorfman Funeral Home....7
Encore Online Resale....13
Food Gatherers ("Grillin'")....15
Get Down Farms....15
Gold Bond Cleaners....10
Hebrew Day School....12
Jewish Community Center....22
Jewish Family Services....5
JET: Jewish Ensemble Theater....10
Margolis Nursery....8
Mast Shoes....14
Michigan Shakespeare Festival....17
Michigan Theater....15, 24
Modern Mechanical....10
MOSA Audiology....8
Nacht Law....10
Pam Sjo, The Reinhart Company....13
People's Food Co-op....23
Purple Rose Theatre Company....2
R. D. Kleinschmidt, Inc.....7
Robin Hills Farm....16
Shutter Booth....13
Temple Beth Emeth....5
Zingerman's....22

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